

Message Text

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15/17

ACTION NEA-10

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 /062 W

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O R 030638Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4889

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7184

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 5.)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: INITIAL AFGHAN RESPONSE TO NAP COURT DECISION AND
BHUTTO'S SPEECH

REF: KABUL 7107

1. SUMMARY: AS OF 2030 NOVEMBER 2 AFGHANS HAD RELEASED TWO
BLASTS OF UNOFFICIAL COMMENTARY CONDEMNING PAKISTAN SUPREME
COURT DECISION TO CONTINUE BAN ON NAP AND OCTOBER 31 BHUTTO
SPEECH. AFGHAN MSDIA HAVE NOT YET REPORTED THESE EVENTS AS PART
OF "STRAIGHT NEWS" COVERAGE, NOR HAS COMMENTARY BEEN ISSUED
DURING "OFFICIAL" EVENING GOVERNMENT NEWSCAST. END SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL AFGHAN RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN COURT DECISION UPHOLD-
ING BAN AGAINST NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S
SPEECH OF OCTOBER 31 WAS REGISTERED OVER RADIO KABUL NOVEMBER
1 DURING DAILY 7 P.M. BROADCAST KNOWN AS "THE PUSHTUNISTAN
PROGRAM". (COMMENT: THIS IS PROGRAM PRIMARILY AIMED AT PUSHTUN
SPEAKERS LIVING ACROSS BORDER IN PAKISTAN, BUT IS ALSO WIDELY
FOLLOWED WITHIN AFGHANISTAN ITSELF. VIEWS EXPRESSED ON PROGRAM
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ARE REGARDED BY AFGHANS AS "PROPAGANDA" OR "SEMI-OFFICIAL,"

WHEREAS THEY REGARD REGULAR 8 P.M. NEWS BROADCAST IN PUSHTUN AND DARI AS "THE OFFICIAL LINE" EVEN WHEN ITEMS ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED AS "BY A MFA SPOKESMAN" OR OTHER GOVERNMENT EQUIVALENT.) NOVEMBER 2 "PUSHTUNISTAN PROGRAM" COMMENTARY ALSO CARRIED INFORMAL AFGHAN REJOINDER TO NAP TRIAL AND BHUTTO SPEECH.

3. PUSHTUNISTAN PROGRAM "COMMENTARY" OF NOVEMBER 1 REFERRED TO NAP JUDGMENT AS "COLONIAL DECISION OF A COLONIAL COURT". IT WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT DECISION HAD "CLOSED THE DOORS ON POLITICAL STRUGGLES OF PUSHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLE" AND THAT "ONLY COURSE LEFT TO THEM WAS RESORT TO NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY JIHAD".

4. FULL TEXT OF COMMENTARY AS PROVIDED US BY PAKISTAN EMBASSY WENT ON TO CHARACTERIZE BHUTTO'S OCTOBER 31 SPEECH AS "AN APOLOGY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SIND AND THE PUNJAB" AND "A DEPICTION OF A BLEAK AND FRUSTRATED PICTURE OF THE FUTURE OF PAKISTAN".

5. COMMENTARY CONTINUED BY EXAMINING LOW POLITICAL STRENGTH OF PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY IN "PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN" AS OPPOSED TO THAT OF MAJORITY NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY, GOING ON TO DESCRIBE NAP AS "THE SOLE OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF THE PAKISTAN RULERS". "THESE RULERS KNEW THAT UNLESS AND UNTIL THE WAY OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE OF THE NAP WAS CLOSED THEY COULD NOT PERPETUATE THEIR RULE... AND COULD NOT HOLD PUSHTUN/BALUCH UNDER THEIR COLONIAL SUBJUGATION". COMMENTARY CONCLUDED WITH ASSERTION "THE PUSHTUN/BALUCH PEOPLE ARE NOW CONVINCED... THAT IN PAKISTAN THERE IS ONLY A LIFE OF SLAVERY FOR THEM, AND THE REMEDY LIES IN GIRDING UP THEIR LOINS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THEIR FREEDOM".

6. COMMENTARY ON NOVEMBER 2 "PUSHTUNISTAN PROGRAM" GENERALLY FOLLOWED THESE LINES, BUT CONTAINS ASSERTIONS CONCERNING LEGAL ASPECTS OF PAK SUPREME COURT DECISION. COMMENTARY STATES "NOWHERE IN THE PAKISTAN CONSTITUTION IS THERE SUCH A PROVISION" (AS THE ONE ALLEGEDLY USED BY THE COURT TO CONTINUE BAN ON NAP) "AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES ACT IS MERELY REGULATION, NOT LAW. IF THE PAKISTAN RULING PARTY HAS THE RESPECT FOR THE PAK CONSTITUTION IT ALWAYS CLAIMS, IT WOULD NOT HAVE FORCED SUCH A VERDICT AGAINST THE PUSHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLE."
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7. THESE PROPAGANDA BLASTS CONTRAST STRANGELY WITH FACT THAT STILL NO "STRAIGHT" NEWS OF NAP DECISION AND BHUTTO'S SPEECH HAS BEEN GIVEN, EITHER IN PRESS OR ON RADIO. NOR HAS THERE BEEN EDITORIAL OPINION EXPRESSED ON RADIO PROGRAMS OR IN NEWSPAPERS REGARDED AS USUALLY CONTAINING "THE OFFICIAL WORD".
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